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faith expressed in the "Crossing of the Bar," the poem which Tennyson asked to have printed at the end of every collection of his poems.

D. L. PORTER.

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**The History of the Higher Criticism of the New Testament.** By HENRY S. NASH. (*New Testament Handbooks*.) New York: The Macmillan Co., 1900. Pp. 187. \$0.75.

The full title of this book is significant: *The History of the Higher Criticism of the New Testament, Being the History of the Process whereby the Word of God has Won the Right to be Understood*. This "process" is traced through all the Christian centuries. The "right to be understood" was not enjoyed by the Bible before the Reformation, because, "under the hand of a bold, allegorical method, the sacred text lay helpless." The appeal to the Bible as against tradition was made by the Reformers. From that day the Bible has been coming to its "right."

To an understanding of the Bible the religious motive is not sufficient. "The Bible, in its essence, is a history, a body of facts; therefore it must be historically studied." By "criticism" the author does not mean "any given set of opinions" regarding the Bible, but rather "an intellectual temperament, a mental disposition." This "temperament" may coexist with a "very positive faith in the supernatural." One suggestive chapter heading of the book is "The Inspiration of Criticism." The author holds that our critical age is no less inspired than was the credal period. This thought finds varied expression throughout the book, and evidently is of fundamental importance in the judgment of the author. At the same time he is not blind to the faults of critics, nor inappreciative of the dangers connected with critical study. But the authority of criticism is not impaired by the sins of critics, and, while various results of criticism must be deplored, the critical ideal itself cannot be abandoned. A "divine compulsion" is laid on the church to study the Bible historically.

The development of criticism is traced from Simon and Semler down to the *annus mirabilis*, 1835. Then the *tendencies* and the *schools* of modern times are discussed. "The one solid and certain gain of criticism," says the author, "is that the study of the New Testament has entered, once for all, the historical stage. . . . The sense of fact has triumphed over the dogma of infallibility in all its forms."

From this brief and inadequate outline of Professor Nash's book it

will appear, I trust, that it is conceived in a broad spirit, and executed in close sympathy with the rights of Scripture and the need of the individual believer. It is a vindication of higher criticism from within, that is, from the very nature of revelation itself; and therefore it seems to me a book for which there is a real and widespread need.

GEORGE H. GILBERT.

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**The Messages of Paul**, arranged in historical order, analyzed, and freely rendered in paraphrase, with introductions. By PROFESSOR GEORGE B. STEVENS, PH.D., D.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900. Pp. xiii + 268. \$1.25, *net*.

The material of this book was first published two years ago, under the title *The Epistles of Paul in Modern English*. In its present form it has been reset with some revision, and conformed in style to the "Messages of the Bible" series edited by Professors Sanders and Kent. The addition of the marginal analyses, and the introductions which state briefly the time, place, and occasion of the writing of each letter, increase the value of the book largely. An essay of thirty pages is new, treating of the use of epistles in the early Christian church, the peculiarities of the Pauline epistles, Paul's life as seen in his epistles, Paul's addresses, etc. The volume is therefore much improved in appearance and usefulness.

We bespeak for the book a wide use among Bible readers generally. The endeavor to put Paul's letters into our present-day English, and to give a true historical interpretation to his utterances, has here been in a high degree successful. And the benefit which comes to one from reading such a commentary can hardly be equaled by the same amount of time spent in any other method of studying the epistles. It is difficult for us to bring the New Testament epistles into a condition of *reality*, as though we were actually hearing the apostle speak; but this is necessary to our understanding of his letters. Professor Stevens' book will give great assistance in this effort.

C. W. V.

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**The Divine Discipline of Israel:** An Address and Three Lectures on the Growth of Ideas in the Old Testament. By G. BUCHANAN GRAY, M.A. London: A. & C. Black, 1900. Pp. vi + 128. 3s.

The address which opens this volume furnishes the title. The three lectures discuss the development of moral ideas and life in Israel. All have the clearness associated with oral discourse, and are